United Nations E/2015/NGO/14

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 May 2015

Original: English

2015 session
21 July 2014-22 July 2015
Agenda item 5 (c)
High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Statement submitted by Society for Upliftment of Masses, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08512 (E) 120615

Please recycle

Statement

Health care requires infrastructure in the form of hospitals, dispensaries, equipment, doctors, nurses etc. within easy reach of population. It has to be ensured that hospitals/dispensaries are not only well staffed and equipped but also well-managed with compassion and care.

The corporate world can make a difference by making "Health" as their preferred activity under corporate social responsibility. They can adopt some villages or urban areas and just as they monitor the growth of their company, they may derive satisfaction by monitoring the improvements in the health status of the target population. Governments may also consider encouraging corporate world to come forward and assist in this noble endeavour by introducing some incentives in taxation.

Pharmaceutical companies should not shy away from their responsibility. They should provide all essential drugs at affordable price by following the golden formula of cost plus nominal profit. However, if they hesitate to come forward on their own, Governments could force them to do so by including enabling clauses in the policy and regulatory framework. Developing countries may also consider setting up pharmaceutical companies in public sector, whereby Government would be able to influence the price at which they sell medicines.

School teachers can make a big difference. They have big influence on their students. They can safely extend this influence to include health awareness and motivate them to adopt healthy lifestyle with healthy food choices and exercise in their daily routine.

College students have to play an equally important role by raising awareness regarding public health issues, hazards of unprotected sex or drug abuse. They may be encouraged by the college authorities to set up health clubs in their institution, which could take up some direct community work, in addition to organising quizzes and contests on health related issues from time to time.

Considering the fact that the network of schools and colleges is much larger as compared to hospitals and dispensaries, school teachers and students together can bring about substantial improvement in the health status of the nation, if this valuable resource is well-utilized.

Last, but not the least, active participation of masses is the need of the hour. Everyone talks about what the Governments should do, what other institutions should do, but nobody talks about what I can do. The transformation has to start from me. The moment we all start contributing a few moments from our life with the sincere desire to make a difference, it will be a different world.